

Community Toolbox Recommendations

The Community Toolbox recommends the following principles as a foundation for evaluating a community change effort like the implementation of a Lethality Assessment/HRT:

- Community initiatives often function as **catalysts for change** in which community members and organizations work together to improve the quality of life.
- Community initiatives are complex and ever-changing, **and they must be analyzed on multiple levels.**
- Community initiatives help launch interventions that are **planned and implemented by community members.**
- Community evaluation **must understand and reflect the issue, and the context in which it is happening.**
- Community evaluation should **involve people from throughout the community.**
- Community evaluation **information should be linked to questions of importance to key stakeholders.**
- Community evaluation should **better community member's ability to understand what's going on, improve practices, and increase self-determination.**
- Community evaluation should begin **early and be ongoing.**
- Community evaluation results, if positive, **should be used to help sustain and promote widespread adoption of the community initiative and/or its components.**
- Community evaluation should be coupled with technical assistance to provide total support.¹

¹ University of Kansas Center for Community Health and Development. (2021). Section 5. Our Evaluation Model: Evaluating Comprehensive Community Initiatives. <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/build-your-toolbox>